

The **SOUTHEAST NEWS**

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 3 - Number 7

APRIL, 1955



Central Congregational Church

1955 CONVENTION ISSUE

THE MODERATOR'S REPORT

This has been one of the shortest years that I have experienced in my life. Everyone has been busy. And PROGRESS spells the result in our Convention and all of our churches. Another glorious chapter has been written upon the pages of time and added to the thrilling story of what is happening in the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches.

Our Superintendent, the Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, deserves a "thank you" from every single church member in our area. Always he has gone beyond the call of duty when he thought of things that must be done. Working late at night in the office (when he had a day and night to spend there), driving nights to make appointments the next day, and giving up family and home obligations that he might be of service to some church—surely we owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Butterfield and their two lovely girls for sacrificing Erston to the Christian calling.

The greatest promotional effort of this past year was the Every Church Canvass. You will recall that at the last annual meeting which was held in Lanett, Ala., our delegation voted unanimously for autonomy for the Southeast Convention. Every church is needed if the Convention is to realize this goal. The committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education carefully worked out the program for the necessary Every Church Canvass. The result: the Convention budget for 1954-55 was over-subscribed. That was proof enough that we do what we want to do and succeed.

We have been without an extension worker for nearly two years, but we have a gem in Miss Annie Campbell who joined our staff April 15th. She has been given the title "Minister of Christian Education". It is hoped she will relieve Supt. Butterfield's load considerably in our ever expanding "Program of Progress".

It was at the last Board of Directors meeting March 15th that the Rev. C. Carl Dollar submitted his resignation as Director of the Christian Rural Extension Service. Carl has served well in this capacity for the past five years and he feels that "he would like again to settle down to work in a church or parish and be with the family more." We will miss Carl, especially when we get ready for stewardship institutes and every member canvasses. He has made a valuable contribution to our "Program of Progress".

To replace Carl Dollar and the particular work he has been doing, the "Area Ministry Plan" may be the answer. Four such areas have been set up in outline. Area I, North Alabama; Area II, East Alabama; Area III, South Alabama; Area IV, South Georgia. In each of these areas we will have a well-trained, capable man who will assume certain well-defined administrative, promotional and fellowship duties. These four men will be considered a part of the field staff and will participate in regular monthly staff meetings, serve as staff

counselors to the various committees, and be responsible to the Superintendent.

Our four major committees have functioned well this past year. Perhaps the most significant thing the Committee on Ministry and Churches has done was to sponsor the Convocations and Ministers Training Schools at Southern Union College. These schools are of great value not only for the men working toward ordination, but to the ordained men as well. Hats Off to you and your committee, Dr. Anderson.

Miss Annie Campbell, directing the activities of the Committee on Christian Education and Youth Work, has done an excellent job. The climax of the year's labor was realized the middle of March when the first Convention conference for young people was held in Lanett, Ala. This committee has rendered invaluable service during the year in many phases of Christian Education.

The Committee on Survey and Church Aid, under the leadership of Goff Bedford, played an important role in the Area Ministry plan. As has already been stated, this plan may be the answer here in our Convention where distances are great and the needs many.

Joe French and his Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education continue to plan programs to the end that the Convention and local churches may be increased in strength, concern, and action. They did an excellent job with the Every Church Canvass and plans are now in the making for our canvass this fall. Committee related institutes have been held throughout the Convention. Just after this annual meeting here, in Atlanta, Dr. John R. Scotford will be in our area holding institutes on church planning and building.

I could not end this report without calling to your attention again how fortunate we are to have Mrs. Montez Albright in the Atlanta office to see that everything is kept in order. We are deeply indebted to her for the efficient manner in which she has operated our central office.

This is, in brief, some of the things which we have been doing together this past year. I count it an honor to have served as your Moderator and Chairman of the Board of Directors. This past year I have represented you at the General Council meeting in New Haven, Conn. last June; the inter-racial meeting at Brick, N. C. in December; the Council for Southern Mountain Workers held in Gatlinburg, Tenn. in February; the Southeast Regional Meeting in Avon Park, Fla. in March. It has been a glorious experience to attend the Ministers' School at Southern Union College, the Conference meetings, the youth meeting at Lanett, and all of the Board of Directors meetings held in Atlanta.

I want to thank each individual church member for his prayers and enthusiastic support in our Program of Progress. Let us continue our "Forward March" in the strength of our Lord.

- Lowell A. Smoot, Moderator

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

"Christ For the World We Sing" was more than last year's Convention Hymn—it became a denominating purpose and force in all of our Convention activities during the year. Our many committee meetings, workshops, institutes, training sessions, convocations, and fellowship gatherings have all sought to bring us into closer relationship with the Christ and provide us with the vision, the tools and the know-how to more effectively minister to the needs of His world.

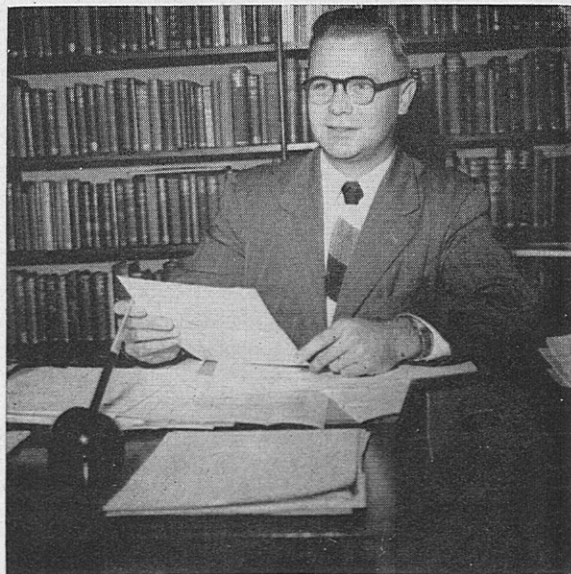
We have all been very busy, but the increasing friendship, understanding, commitment and strength among our churches, associations and conferences give ample evidence that our efforts have been worthwhile.

On the following pages you will read the account of the faithful stewardship of your convention chairmen and their committees. Your Board of Directors, under the Moderatorship of the Rev. Lowell Smoot, has done an outstanding job of implementing the actions taken by this body one year ago. They have carefully considered matters of policy and program in the light of our needs and financial limitations, and have courageously and creatively met the new demands of an ever expanding program of advance.

It has been a joy to work with such devoted leaders on every level of the fellowship. During the last eleven months field service appointments included 83 sermons and addresses, 45 meetings with local boards and committees, 25 congregational meetings, 38 sessions with conventions, association and conference committees and fellowship groups, and 22 appointments within the larger fellowship and on the interdenominational level. Added to these appointments were the sessions of the General Council, the Southeast Regional Meeting, the Midwinter Meetings, the Convocation and Ministers' School, the Inter-racial meeting at Bricks, and the Waycross Family Camp. Maintaining such a field schedule and still having adequate time for office work, correspondence, program planning, and family responsibilities has proved an impossibility.

We are most fortunate in having Montez Albright as Convention Registrar, office secretary and assistant treasurer. With the increasing tempo of our work under the Program of Progress, she has had to assume ever increasing secretarial burdens. She has met unusually heavy demands in her usual gracious and efficient manner, even when hours of overtime were necessary to finish a magazine mailing, complete a mimeographing job, solve a bookkeeping problem, catch up on the superintendent's correspondence, or slave over the yearly statistical reports. Mrs. Albright well deserves a special word of commendation.

Carl Dollar, as Assistant Superintendent with special responsibilities in the field of Christian Stewardship, has been a good team-mate and has made a significant and lasting contribution to the well-being of our churches and our Program of Progress. It has been good to have had Carl on the staff for the last five years and we shall all be sorry to see him leave the field. We will hope that he accepts a pulpit here in the Southeast



REV. ERSTON M. BUTTERFIELD

for we will continue to need his ready humor and willing helpfulness.

While we are losing one good staff member we are gaining another. Just this week the Rev. Annie Campbell has joined us as Minister of Christian Education. With her coming we hope to bring even greater strength to our program of Christian Education, Youth Work and the Women's Fellowship. Her major responsibilities will be in these three important fields, and she will operate from the Atlanta office. We rejoice at Miss Campbell's coming and greatly appreciate her fine spirit and capable assistance.

As a part of this report I wish to present certain statistical facts concerning our churches which will appear in the new denominational yearbook. There are 117 active churches in the Southeast Convention served by 75 ministers. There are 76 pastoral units (30 fulltime churches) which pay an average salary for fulltime service of \$3,100. Only 39 of our churches have parsonages.

Our total membership stands at 9,682 which is a net gain of 71 members in 1954. (Total gain was 934, total loss 863). Of the 934 new members, 426 joined our Confession of Faith and 508 by letter. A net gain in membership was made by 54 churches, 36 had a net loss, and 27 remained the same. 32 churches gained no new members in 1954! Church schools increased by 419 members and young peoples groups by 411.

These are statistics which give us some reason to rejoice and much reason to be concerned—especially with the more than half of our churches which made no increase in membership during the past year. Evangelism must be one of our major concerns this next convention year.

Giving to Our Christian World Mission continues to be most encouraging. Many of our churches are sending in their contributions monthly, and we hope that all churches will get into that good habit soon. However, we must not

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Rev. C. Carl Dollar.....Director, Extension Service

Mrs. Ed. A. AlbrightRegistrar

Mrs. Jettie LoganPromotion

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APRIL 15, 1955

Number 7



JOHN W. STOKES, Treasurer

rest on our laurels, for giving to Our Christian World Mission is far below what it ought to be. Our goal is still 10c per member per week. Our present average is only 3½c per member per week. So we have a long way to go before we arrive at the "new day" when we are completely self-supporting and doing our fair share of Kingdom work around the world.

It is hoped that when our Every Church Canvass comes this fall every congregation will have grown sufficiently in spirit and concern to substantially raise its pledge to Our Christian World Mission.

So let our Convention hymn "March On O Soul With Strength" be our marching song for the year ahead. Let this meeting mark another milestone in our Program of Advance. Let us continue to go forward in unity of mind, in strength of purpose and in the power of the spirit - "On To the New Day".

- Erston M. Butterfield, Superintendent

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Since the Southeast Convention voted to become autonomous and self-supporting at the annual meeting May 16, 1954, the funds for maintaining the Southeast Convention office are received from 75% of the Our Christian Mission giving from the churches of the Convention plus a subsidy of \$20,000 per year from the Board of Home Missions. The plan is that the subsidy will gradually be reduced until the Convention is entirely self-supporting.

A yearly budget (June 1 through May 31) is set up by the Convention Board of Directors, the Superintendent and the Treasurer. During the year, as special needs may arise, other appropriations are made by the Board and designated for these special needs when funds are available.

Income for Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 1955

I. Monies received thru March 31, 1955

A. From Bd. of Home Missions, budget	\$17,043.
B. From Bd. of Home Missions, design.	7,442.
C. From Bd. of Home Missions, special	1,325.
D. From Convention churches	
1. For Per Capita Share	2,134.
2. For Our Christian World Mission (1-7-1954 thru 3-31-55)	16,740.
3. For national Church Bldg. Fund	1,018.
4. For Southeast News, subscriptions	508.
E. From other sources	2,656.
F. From individuals and churches, for designated aid to churches	5,246.

\$54,112.

II. Anticipated receipts April and May

A. From Home Board, budget	\$ 2,957.
B. From Home Board, designated aid	934.
C. From churches, OCWM	3,000.
D. From Registrations, annual meeting	178.

\$61,178.

DISBURSEMENTS THRU MAY 30, 1955

I. Disbursements thru March 31, 1955

A. Approved budget	\$22,300.
B. Items appropriated during year	1,283.
C. Aid to Churches program	11,863.
D. Board Home Missions, designated	7,442.
E. Board Home Missions, special	1,325.
F. Other expenditures	1,202.
G. General Council, Per Capita Share	1,919.
1. Returned to Asso. and Conferences	75.
H. Cong'l Christian Bds. and Agencies	3,537.
I. Designated Conference work	1,169.
J. Church Building Society, CBLF	1,018.

\$53,133.

II. Projected expenditures, April and May

A. Convention budget items	3,948.
B. Aid to churches, Convention	1,677.
C. Home Board projects, designated	934.

\$ 6,549.

Total projected expenditures\$59,682.

NOTE: A more detailed mimeographed report is available to those who would like to have it.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Stokes, Treasurer

Montez G. Albright, Asst. Treasurer

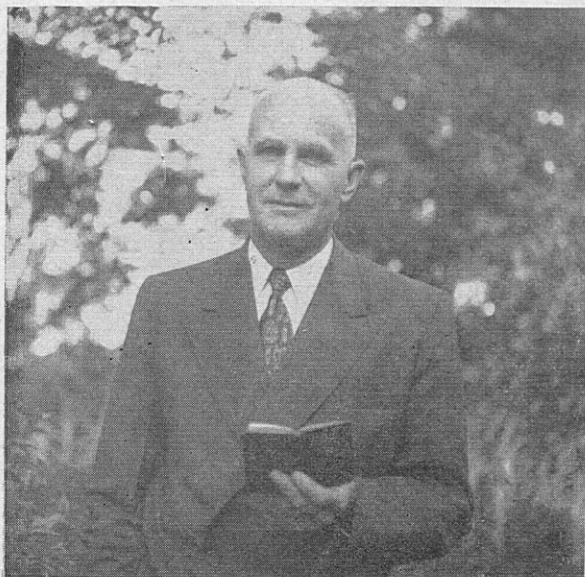
THE CHRISTIAN RURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

A few evenings ago I witnessed the presentation of a cantata, which I attended because I had heard it was to be directed by Dr. Julian O'Neal. I had taught Julian in the seventh grade but had not seen or heard of him since. And now here he was, directing this production in a masterful way. Likewise, it is difficult to realize that our Southeast Convention of today is the Convention which came into being only about five years ago, with everything to learn in the business of organization, administration and self-realization.

In these few years we have taken some giant strides, which have brought us into recognition as a group with a common purpose and with plans for progress and service. We have grown to the point of autonomy and are now weaning ourselves from dependence upon others for financial support. We have become increasingly aware of our real mission as churches, both at home and around the world. We are better stewards and better churchmen. Our laymen have recognized the need for their organized and united efforts, and our women's organizations have increased in concern and effectiveness. We have begun to face up to the need for better-trained leadership and are starting to do something about it. And now, the youth of the churches are becoming anxious to do their part for the church and for the world, and have a live and working organization. These and many other evidences of growth could be cited, including the increasing recognition of the need to build more churches. We believe the Church Builders Club is a good plan by which we can and should cooperate to this end.

It has indeed been a glorious time to be in the Convention,—to witness its growing pains and to assist a bit in the work necessary for preparing for the New Day Ahead. It has been a pleasure to work with our church people. Especially has it been a privilege to be a co-laborer with Sup-

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REV. C. CARL DOLLAR



REV. ANNIE CAMPBELL
New Staff Member

The Rev. Annie R. Campbell became a member of the Southeast Convention staff April 15th, as Minister of Christian Education. She will live in Atlanta and work out of the Convention office.

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention has been searching for someone to direct the Christian Education program for some time—in fact since last fall when the "Day of Decision" results were known and such a move was made possible by increased funds from the churches. At their meeting in Atlanta on March 15th, the Board unanimously elected Miss Campbell and expressed its deep satisfaction that she would assume this important phase of the Convention program.

Miss Campbell attended Rollins College, received her M.A. in Religious Education at Hartford Seminary, and has had graduate work at Chicago Theological Seminary. She is a southerner by birth and began her professional church work under the Congregational Christian Board of Home Missions in Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama as an Extension Worker. So successful was she that the Home Missions Council of North America (interdenominational) asked to borrow her for two winters for work with migrants in Florida.

In 1947 Miss Campbell went to England under the Congregational Christian Service Committee to help in the English churches. That fall she served in churches around Liverpool, and later at churches in Preston and vicinity. During the following summer she went to a French Work Camp at College Cevenol in France sponsored by the Congregational Christian Service Committee and to a Work Camp at Mainz, Germany, sponsored by CIMADE, a French Protestant youth organization and the Congregational Christian Service Committee. Before returning to America, Miss Campbell visited a camp for Displaced Persons in England.

As a pastor, most recently at Garden City, Ala., the Rev. Campbell has held pastorates in rural communities and small towns in the Southeast Convention for the past seven years.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY AND CHURCHES



DR. THOS. ANDERSON

This committee has made a good deal of progress during the past year in developing three phases of its total program: Suggested standards for ordination and licensure, the planning and promotion of convocations for ministers, and developing courses of study for the training of lay preachers.

Within the Southeast Convention there are 119 churches and 107 ordained ministers, only 54 of whom are actively serving churches. These 54 ordained pastors serve 80 churches—30 of which are fulltime churches. Of the 19 licentiates, 17 are active and serving 23 churches. One church is served by a minister from another denomination, 10 have part - time supply service, two churches are inactive and three are vacant.

Two sessions of the Course of Study have been held, one May 3-7, 1954 in connection with a Convention-wide Ministers Convocation, and the other Nov. 29 - Dec. 3, 1954. Both were held on the campus of Southern Union College. The third session will be held, also at Southern Union, May 2-7. Teachers for this session will be Superintendent Butterfield and Rev. Guy Colbert. Rev. Carolyn Welch will again offer the Reading Associates course.

The percentage of continuation for the second semester is 20 out of 27 enrollees up to date on all lessons.

We are learning as we go along and we believe a better follow-up program has been used for the second session which has helped increase the percentage of those finishing the courses.

There have been requests for the courses without the week or orientation on campus, but the committee felt this would be unwise and that the courses could not be satisfactorily completed. It was therefore decided not to offer the courses unless the person was willing and able to attend the week's study at Southern Union. However, the committee will supply people who are interested

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION and YOUTH WORK COMMITTEE

After being elected chairman of this committee at the annual meeting last May, one of my first responsibilities was conducting the training session for the Student Summer Service workers and planning their schedules. The training course, with practice teaching, was held in conjunction with the Kentucky - Tennessee Family Camp in Pomona.

The committee worked with the deans of the summer camps and conferences in planning programs and the chairman attended the Wedley Junior High Camp as a part of the staff, was dean of the Senior High Camp, and also attended the Waycross Camp as a visitor just to round out a picture of the total summer camp work of the convention.

In the fall when our committee heard the good news that the Rev. Henry Rust (Rusty to all his many friends) was to be with us for two short days, it seemed a pity for just the Christian Education Committee to have this advantage of his knowledge and help, so, by cutting a few corners and asking the young people to share in their expense, we were able to invite also the Pilgrim Fellowship officers of the Convention and of each state and the Junior High representatives—around 30 in all. We are much indebted to the Lanett Church for hospitality and help in planning this meeting.

The young people were most anxious to have a Convention-wide Pilgrim Fellowship Conference, and a committee met soon after Christmas to plan this. The young people did nine-tenths of the work to make this conference a success when it was held March 19-20 in the Lanett Church, with the assistance of the nearby churches in overnight entertainment. The two national leaders present were James Price and Miss Mildred Widber.

The committee feels that we have been wonderfully blessed with national leaders this spring. The Pilgrim Circuit Rider, Miss Leila Anderson, has been visiting churches in our area offering much helpful advice on materials and teaching techniques. James Price and Mill Widber have been conducting a series of area institutes on Christian Education and Pilgrim Fellowship. We apologize for any errors in judgment made in the schedules, as we were not always familiar with the exact location of the churches and of their present needs.

On March 29 Miss Anderson met with the Christian Education Committee in Atlanta. Not all members were present, but every area was represented. Miss Anderson gave us much practical advice and helps on the modern trends in building for Christian Education and the best methods of teaching to really help others to grow in Christian living. Miss Anderson also gave the committee helpful advice about the division of time for the Director of Christian Education so that time and energy might be conserved, but used to the greatest advantage.

Five fine Student Summer Service workers have been secured to teach vacation Bible schools

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SURVEY AND CHURCH AID COMMITTEE

The Survey and Church Aid Committee faces the complex problem of developing adequate procedures for church extension, maintaining a consultative relationship with all churches receiving missionary aid, and setting up pilot projects for linked parishes, parishes of promise, and area ministry.

In this respect, our convention has three urgent needs to make it possible to achieve our goals in the Southeast: 1) to strengthen our present churches, 2) to establish new churches, especially in cities, and 3) to obtain trained ministers for both.

We have no direct concern in this committee with the third need. However, we would like to suggest two ideas for some other committee to consider: 1) that a sum of money be raised to help a church pay transportation to candidating ministers from outside this area and to assist in paying moving expenses for ministers moving to the area from great distances; 2) that some person or persons be sent each year to make a tour of the various seminaries to interest members of the graduating classes in coming to the south.

The Survey and Church Aid Committee has been studying some general facts that must be faced before any successful program of church expansion can be successfully carried out.

1) As a denomination we are relatively unknown in the south. This means that we must be careful from the very start not to be identified with the small sects and holiness groups which would prejudice people against us while not winning members for us. We must lean over backward in this regard, even to the point of not using some methods or techniques that the major denominations in this area have found successful, if such actions, or patterns of worship, would confuse in the minds of people the type of church that we are organizing.

2) By and large, our present churches draw upon the middle class or even the lower middle economic class for our members. We have had little appeal to the business or professional groups in any community. Our methods, then, even the locations of our new churches, must be geared to what interests and attracts progressive people in all groups.

3) Denominational ties are much stronger in the south than elsewhere. The concept of a community church is lacking. People will drive many miles to go to a church of their denomination. A church established with the idea of serving a community will often fail unless it has other advantages. Therefore, whenever possible, locations of churches must be in the center of a community, easily available from all directions. A successful church extension project must have a sound community base.

4) Comity agreements common in the north are impossible in the south. However, in the south, because of the prevailing theology and polity among the "major denominations", real "competition" is lacking between those groups and the

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EVANGELISM, STEWARDSHIP AND MISSIONARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Your committee is aware that its chief function is that of promotion and education in the fields for which it is designated. For this reason it is necessary that we provide educational activities of various kinds for the churches of the Southeast Convention.

Our major activity for the past year has been the planning and execution of Our Christian World Mission program which culminated last September in the Every Church Canvass at which time the filmstrip "Our Day of Decision" was shown in our churches. Superintendent Butterfield is to be commended for the effective job he did in preparing the 90-frame filmstrip which so interestingly presented our work in the Southeast and resulted in such a ready response among our churches in pledges to OCWM which made it possible for our Convention to take a long step toward achieving complete self-support. Because of this program many of our churches have greatly increased their benevolent giving, others have recognized that they can do much more for the Kingdom through giving, and as the program develops Christian Stewardship will take its rightful place in preaching and practice.

The Every Church Canvass program will begin this year on August 30th and continue through September as the story of our "Program of Progress" in the Southeast is carried to every church in the convention. Churches of the Convention are asked to schedule their Every Member Canvass, where possible, to fit in with this schedule. In the fall program your committee will present the plan of the "Fellowship of Tithers" and seek commitment to tithing.

Dr. John R. Scotford, Church Building Consultant and former editor of Advance Magazine, will spend two weeks in our convention this spring conducting Institutes on Church Architecture. He

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REVERENDS BEDFORD AND FRENCH



DR. FRED S. BUSCHMEYER
Keynote Speaker

Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer, nationally known Congregational Christian churchman and Associate Minister of the General Council, will be the Keynote Speaker for our third annual meeting.

Since Dr. Buschmeyer was guest lecturer for the Ministers' Convocation and School at Southern Union College last May, he is well-known to many of the ministers of this area.

With one of his major responsibilities the heading up of the important Commission on the Ministry, Dr. Buschmeyer is actually a pastor-at-large to the approximately 375 Congregational Christian young people studying for the ministry in more than a dozen theological seminaries.

He also serves in a similar capacity to the 115 Congregational Christian ministers who are serving as Chaplains with the United States Armed Forces, both in this country and abroad.

Another phase of Dr. Buschmeyer's wide pastoral service has to do with the gathering of material and publication of handbooks on the ministry, including material to assist churches and pastors in recruiting young people for the Christian ministry.

A successful pastor before being called to his present post, Dr. Buschmeyer filled pulpits in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Washington, D. C., prior to becoming Associate Minister of the General Council.

Dr. Buschmeyer was for six years on the Executive Committee of the General Council, part of the time as chairman. He also served as a committee chairman for the Council for Social Action and the Committee on War Victims and Reconstruction.

A native Californian, Dr. Buschmeyer attended

the University of Southern California. He completed his graduate work in Theology at Boston University, and has honorary degrees of Litt. D. and D.D.

The Moderator

The Rev. Lowell A. Smoot, who has been the Convention Moderator for the past year and Chairman of the Board of Directors, will preside at the opening sessions of the third annual meeting. Mr. Smoot has also served as Moderator Elect in 1953-54, and chaired the successful Church Building Loan Fund Campaign in the Southeast Convention in 1952-53, to an over-subscription of its quota.

Before assuming the pastorate of the Soddy-Daisy Parish last fall, Mr. Smoot was pastor of the Phenix City United Church in Phenix City, Ala. During his pastorate the congregation built a new parsonage and completed an educational annex for Sunday School, recreational and fellowship space.

The Rev. Smoot is a graduate of Piedmont College, and completed his seminary training at the Vanderbilt School of Religion in Nashville, Tenn. in 1950.

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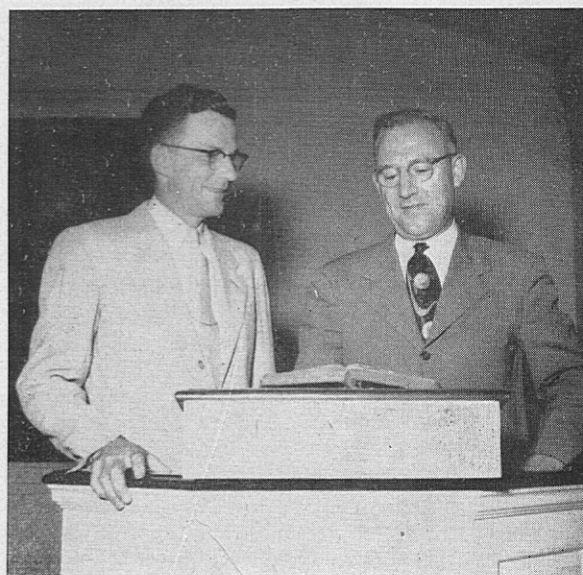
Our Chaplain

Chaplain for all sessions of the third annual meeting will be the Rev. Arnold Slater, pastor of the Pilgrim Congregational Church of Chattanooga, Tenn. for the past ten years.

Mr. Slater was Convention Moderator during the 1953-54 year, and Chairman of the Board of Directors during the same period. He continues to serve as a faithful member of the Board.

The Rev. Slater is active in civic and religious groups in Chattanooga, being an active member of the Parent - Teacher Association, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Displaced Persons Committee, City Planning Committee, the Exchange Club and other organizations. He has

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**REV. LOWELL A. SMOOT, Moderator, and
REV. ARNOLD SLATER, Chaplain**

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches

Central Congregational Church

Atlanta, Georgia

April 19 and 20, 1955

HYMN: "March On, O Soul, With Strength" (1, 2, and 3 verses)

THEME: "On to the New Day"

Scripture: "It is God that worketh in you; therefore do all things without murmurings and disputings that you may be blameless and harmless children of God, without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world holding forth the work of life" (New Testament)

Tuesday, April 19 (E.S.T.)

10:30 a.m. Call to Order by the Moderator, the Rev. Lowell A. Smoot Soddy-Daisy, Tenn.
Opening Worship conducted by the Chaplain, the Rev. Arnold Slater of Chattanooga, Tenn.

11:00 a.m. First Business Session

2. Welcome by Host Pastor, Dr. Thos. Anderson
3. Adoption of Program Agenda
4. Presentation and adoption of 1954 Convention minutes

5. Appointment of Committees

- a. Nominating Committee
- b. Program Committee
- c. Business Committee
- d. Resolutions Committee

6. Appointment of Tellers

7. Seating of Fraternal Delegates and Corresponding Members

8. Reports

- a. Moderator, Rev. Lowell Smoot
- b. Superintendent, Rev. E. M. Butterfield
- c. Assistant Superintendent (CRES) Rev. C. Carl Dollar
- d. Treasurer, John W. Stokes

12:00 Recess

12:30 Luncheon in Central Church

2:00 p.m. Worship: the Chaplain, Rev. Slater

2:15 p.m. Keynote Address: "On to the New Day"
Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer, Assoc. Minister of the General Council

3:00 p.m. Business Session: Rev. Archie Bedford, presiding.

1. Committee Reports

- a. Ministry and Churches, Dr. Anderson
- b. Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education, Rev. Joe French
- c. Survey and Church Aid, Rev. Goff Bedford
- d. Christian Education and Youth Work Rev. Annie Campbell
- e. Report of Nominating Committee, with election during final business session on Wednesday.
- f. Report from the Church Builders' Club, Rev. Henry Weaver, president

2. Presentation and discussion of "Policy Statement"

6:00 p.m. Dinner in Central Church

7:30 p.m. Worship: the Chaplain

"Our Christian World Mission Across the Seas", a dramatic presentation under the direction of Supt. Butterfield.

8:45 p.m. Recess for the evening

Wednesday, April 20

8:00 a.m. Fellowship Breakfasts

1. Laymen and Ministers at Cox-Carleton

2. Hotel, Herman D. Cook presiding

2. Women at Georgian Terrace Hotel, Mrs. L. A. Smoot presiding

3. Young People at Cherokee Hotel, Millard Fuller, presiding

10:30 a.m. Worship: the Chaplain, Central Congregational Church Sanctuary

10:45 a.m. Final Business Session

1. Constitutional Revisions
2. Election of Officers and Committees
3. Report of Resolutions Committee
4. Other business

12:30 Luncheon at Central Church

1:30 p.m. The Services of Dedication and Remembrance

Convention Sermon: Supt. Butterfield

Installation of officers and committees

Service of Remembrance

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

3:00 p.m. Adjournment

Fourth Annual Meeting of the Southeast Convention to be at Circular Congregational Christian Church in Charleston, S. C., April 24 and 25, 1956.

OUR CHAPLAIN

(From page 8)

represented the Southeast Convention in several interdenominational meetings to discuss the problems of desegregation and better race relations.

In the summer of 1953, Mr. Slater represented the Adult Education Council in study sessions at Bigwig Island, Canada. These sessions were sponsored by the Ford Foundation.

THE LAYMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Increased activities, enlarged budgets and new leadership in many areas are indications that laymen of the Southeast Convention are awakening to responsibilities long neglected.

A review of the past issues of the **Southeast News** serves as exciting reading of our growth in many ways, scattered among the various issues are interesting articles about the busy laymen.

New clubs have been organized and are taking their places in the local church life, area clubs have been reorganized and revitalized such as the laymen of Kentucky-Tennessee, who met last November for a session indicating new interest and determination to become an even more important factor in our program of progress.

Many laymen over the Southeast had the thrill of sharing in the "Day of Decision" and will be thrilled even more as we move towards complete autonomy and self-support.

Various rallies, including the School of Churchmanship, have been held during the year ahead to strengthen us for better service.

Most interesting to me has been the participation by more laymen in national meetings. We were well represented at General Council and also at our first National Convention of Congregational Christian Laymen held recently in Chicago.

Again we have been fortunate in having our national director, Mr. Walter Graham, with us for several important meetings. We are grateful for his guidance and inspiring life.

A recent article by Frank Gordon, layman-at-large in Georgia, points out a fact we often overlook—namely, all male members of the Congregational Christian Churches are laymen of the churches and members of our Fellowship. We look forward with anticipation to the time when the many laymen of our Southeast Convention who are not sharing in our program will awake to the wonderful privilege that is theirs. Indeed that will be another thrilling event to add to the many we are sharing in together.

—Herman D. Cook, President

* * *

First Nationwide Convention of Congregational Christian Laymen

Among the more than 700 laymen registered at the first National Convention of Congregational Christian Laymen, held in Chicago February 25-27, were Eric Swanson, Pilgrim Church of Chattanooga; Paul Penn of United Church in La-Grange; Odell Yancey of Langdale Church in Langdale; and John Dollar, Jr., and Herman Cook of Lanett Church in Lanett.

The entire convention was filled with inspirational events. It would be difficult to say what was the top event of the meeting—although to me one of the most thrilling parts was when the song leader, Carl Somer of Chicago, lead the group in singing "The Lord's Prayer." This beautiful hymn is always a source of much help but when such a large group of laymen join together it lifts the emotions quite beyond description.



MRS. SMOOT and HERMAN COOK

Dr. Elson Trueblood, Director of Religious Policy for the United States Information Service and noted author, was the speaker for the opening session on Friday evening. He did an excellent job of keynoting the entire convention. Other speakers, all of whom are outstanding leaders, were Dr. Alford Carleton, Al Whitehouse, Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, Dr. Walter Judd, Dr. Truman B. Douglass and Dr. Ronald Bridges. The chaplain for the entire meeting was the Minister and Secretary of the General Council, Dr. Douglas Horton.

Various Vocational Seminars were conducted by capable leaders enabling the participants to better understand the Christian ethics involved in his specific vocation and giving him a better appreciation of the part he could play in his vocation.

Many other events too numerous to mention all served to send the laymen back to their home churches and areas with a greater appreciation of our Congregational Christian heritage, the power of our Fellowship and the determination to be better laymen in the local church, the area work, at home, in business and community.

—Herman D. Cook, President

Southeast Convention Laymen's Fellowship

Have You Renewed Your Subscription to the **Southeast News?**

Tie a string around your finger until you remember to send us a check or money order for \$1.50, so you won't miss a single issue.

The Christian Rural Extension Service

(From page 5)

erintendent Erston Butterfield. If we had searched the wide world over we could not have found a better man for the job. I am sure we all agree that he deserves most of the credit for the progress we have made.

I have enjoyed my various tasks in the area: helping with the planning and teaching in youth conferences and with ministerial training; helping local churches in different ways, especially in stewardship education and with their every member canvasses; assisting a bit in pastoral placement; taking part in ordinations and other special services; preaching from time to time and speaking on occasion; meeting with the different Convention committees as they planned their strategy; attending regional and national meetings; showing movies in the churches; meeting with local building committees; and various other activities, including the molestation of the brethren by tacking theses on church doors!

After more than five years on the staff of the Convention, I have submitted my resignation to the Board of Directors and am planning to return to the pastorate. I am hoping that under the area ministry plan the work will be more effective and that much of the great load will be taken from the shoulders of our superintendent. I am grateful to the Convention and to the churches of the area for the opportunity I have had to serve. I believe our churches are certainly readying themselves to march "On to the New Day" ahead. Our advancement in these few short years has been little short of phenomenal. The people have a mind to work together. My prayers will always be for the progress of our cause in the Southeast.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Carl Dollar, Director

Church Builders Club Report

Report blanks on membership continue to come in from churches of the Convention, and there is still some hope that the 1,000 member goal may be reached by the time of the annual meeting.

The Rev. Henry C. Weaver, president, will make a complete report on membership and pledges received to date at the Tuesday afternoon business session.

The club secretary, the Rev. W. C. Carpenter, reports over 700 members as of April 1st, and over \$2,625 paid in on pledges.

The following churches have been presented with the special AWARD OF MERIT certificate (suitable for framing): Baxley Friendship, Bristol Antioch, Pearson Union Hill, Waycross, Williams Chapel, Douglas First, Ambrose Christian, Tifton First, Tifton Vanceville, Richland First, Chipley Oak Grove, and Nashville Brookmeade. The South Georgia Association has also received the AWARD OF MERIT, representing more than 25% of the active membership being members of the Church Builders Club.

Organized in 1953, the Church Builders Club began as an idea among the churches of the

The WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

At the Missions Council meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Henry Smith Leiper told this story. There was a little old lady who always looked on the dark side of life. One day her grandson looked her in the eye and said, "Granny, don't you ever tell a glad story?"

Let me begin then with the "glad story" for the women of the Southeast. We are continuing to grow numerically. There have been at least two new women's fellowships organized this year, and probably others that have not been reported.

The Woman's Gift of the area helped to swell the national amount to \$282,500.

Alabama and Kentucky-Tennessee women contributed toward the Women's Fellowship budget of the Convention.

A part of the "glad story" was the privilege of the president to represent the women of the area at the inter-racial meeting at Bricks, N.C.; the Council for Social Action workshop at Framingham, Mass.; the National Women's Fellowship, New Haven, Conn.; the Presidents' Conference at Cleveland, Ohio; Board meetings in Atlanta; the Southeast Pilgrim Fellowship Convention, Lanett; and the Kentucky-Tennessee Women's Rally, Daisy.

With Miss Campbell coming on the staff our rate of progress should be even greater in 1956.

The principal duties of the Southeast Convention president is the coordinating of programs and speakers for the area. Over 100 program packets and 500 yearbooks were distributed this year. Miss Marjorie Martin, National Friendly Service Secretary, was the Georgia and Alabama Rally speaker in March, and Mrs. W. T. Scott of Elon College, U. C., will give the address at the Fellowship Breakfast April 20th.

Let us then never be satisfied with the "glad story", but always strive to perfect the beginning we have made.

Here are a few suggestions for strengthening our fellowship.

1) Each of our six areas of work (Evangelism, and spiritual life, stewardship, Christian education, missionary education, CSA, and friendly service) need chairmen at the state, association and local level.

2) Have a special Sunday set aside when the Women's Fellowship can explain its function and program to the church, just as the Pilgrim Fellowship and Laymen do.

3) Begin in the home the real recruiting of young people to fulltime church vocations and Christian service.

In the words of Margaret Hargrove, "The Women's Fellowship . . . can presently be characterized by four words: emerging, developing, out-reaching, deepening. As to the future . . . it will not stand still."

This applies to us in the Southeast—may we go "On to the New Day" with Christ as our guide.

—Mary Margaret Smott, President
Convention Women's Fellowship

South Georgia Association as a means of church extension.

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Pilgrim Fellowship in the Southeast Convention has experienced an historic year. Great strides forward have been taken; many firsts have been affected. Also the ground work for an enormous expansion program has been laid. Much work remains to be done but the past year has been a milestone in the progress of Pilgrim Fellowship.

I am indeed fortunate to have been a small part of PF work in the past year and consider it an honor to make this report.

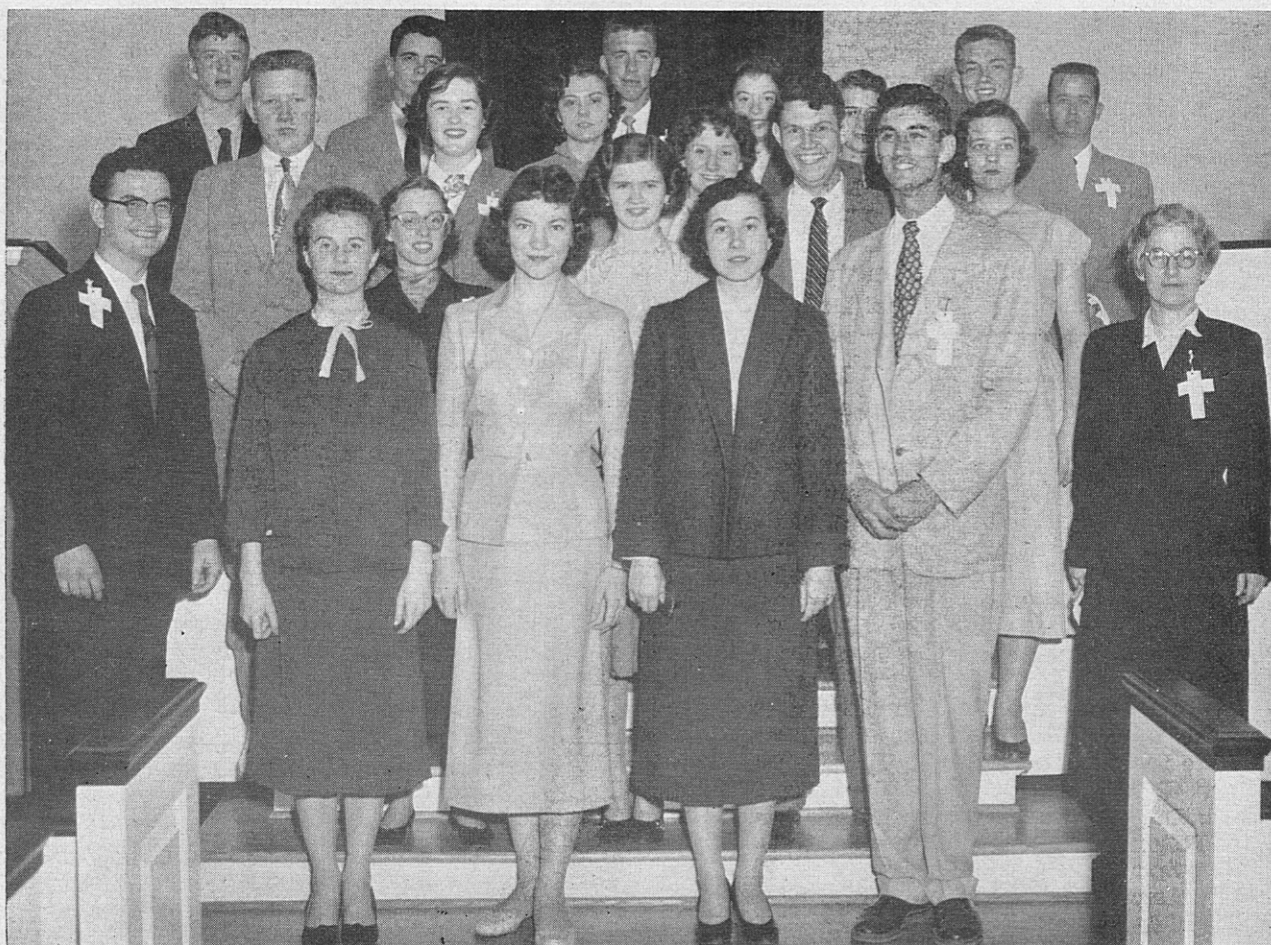
The first activities of the year were the summer conferences. June 12th of last year found much activity around Pomona, Tenn., at the Kentucky-Tennessee Family Camp. A slate of PF officers was elected with Sandra Mason of Stearns as President. Two camps were held at Southern Union College—the Junior High and Senior High. I was unable to attend the Junior High, but did attend sessions of the Senior High. Joe Adams of Andalusia was elected President of this group. The Waycross Family Camp in Georgia was held August 15-21. Albert Van Cleave, past Vice-president, was the Convention representative, and Wilfordine Royal of Baxley was elected President.

Another summer meeting of importance was

the National Council of PF, held at Yale Divinity School. Albert Van Cleave, Betty Slater and myself were the fortunate ones from the Southeast Convention who attended this very informative, inspirational and highly important meeting, which lasted a week and included PFers from all over the United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Mexico. It would take pages to relate even a few of the experiences we witnessed there, and since space is limited I will sum up the week's activities in one word—wonderful!

Summer gone and school starting found PF still on the move. September was the birth month of a system of PF districts. The first to organize was the Valley District, which did not follow association lines at all but included all the churches around the Valley to eliminate the distance barrier, and the first meeting was held in mid-September. A slate of officers was elected, consisting of Harrell Hardy, President; La Delle Nelson, Vice-president; Claudette Brumbeloe, Secretary, and Patsy Yancey, Treasurer. Another rally was held in December.

The Wadley area organized next, their first rally being held at Southern Union College in mid-January. A fine program including work-



Front row, left to right: Rev. Harvey Floyd, Youth Director of Central Church, Atlanta; Iris Cole, Treasurer; Inas Dillard, Secretary; Mary Steward, Vice-president; Millard Fuller, President; and Rev. Annie R. Campbell. Others are chairmen and participants.



Seated, left to right: Millard Fuller; Albert Van Cleave (retiring Vice-president); Inas Dillard; Jim Price, National Youth Associate; Miss Mildred Widber, Secretary of the Department of Leadership and Field Program of the Division of Christian Education; and the Rev. Annie R. Campbell. Standing, left to right: Rev. Joe French, host pastor; Sandra Mason, Bill Green, and Harold Hardy.

shops on the three commissions (faith, action, fellowship), recreation, an evening meal, and visiting speakers were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Bill Green of Rock Stand Church was elected President; Rodney Harmon, Vice-president; and Cynthia Breed, Secretary. The Rev. David Clark was elected adult advisor.

North Alabama held their first district rally February 26-27 at Mountain Grove and Garden City. Business meetings, workshops on the three commissions, report from National Council, and recreation highlighted Saturday's schedule of activities. The worship service with Dr. Van Cleave delivering the message, two filmstrips, and a final business session ended the rally on Sunday. Glenda Washburn was elected President.

The Rev. Raymond Berry, Joe Adams and others have worked out plans for a South Alabama District Rally in April. There is quite a bit of optimism concerning this first rally in a new district.

Kentucky and Tennessee have combined efforts to plan for their first district meeting in April, and tentative plans have been made for a district rally in South Georgia.

In addition to the six districts mentioned above, it is hoped that Central Alabama and North Georgia will be able to plan for their first district meetings in the next few months. When these areas are organized, it will give a total of eight districts and a completely organized system of districts within the Convention. With this functioning properly, a great stride forward will have been taken.

The next important venture affected during the past year was a workable financial plan. Since the Convention voted to become autonomous last year, it was thought the Pilgrim Fellowship should support itself as far as possible. With this in mind, a financial plan was inaugurated, and was voted on and adopted at each summer camp.

This plan called for each PF member to pay 25¢ yearly to Convention Pilgrim Fellowship for operating expenses. The money was called for in February and response was fairly good for the first year. Inas Dillard, the Convention PF treasurer, reported \$70 turned in. This represents 280 PFers paying their dues. It will be used for stationary, stamps, travel money for the officers, and any other operating expenses which may arise.

Growth of Pilgrim Fellowship on the Convention level can be just as fast as growth on the local level, and I am proud to report that growth down where it counts most, locally, is very much in evidence. Almost every week I receive news of a newly formed Pilgrim Fellowship. During the past year the number of local PFs has increased from around 40 to over 60. That's progress!

The latest and largest event of the year was the Convention-wide Pilgrim Fellowship Conference at Lanett March 19-20. Without a doubt this first Conference was the biggest single accomplishment of the year. Coming from all over the Convention, 170 PFers studied, worshipped, fellowshiped together for two very wet but wonderful days. The program featured such outstanding personalities as Jim Price and Miss Mildred Widber with the very appropriate theme "Program of Progress". This conference didn't just happen, but was the result of much planning and hard work which began back in October at a joint meeting of the Committee on Christian Education and Youth Work and the Pilgrim Fellowship officers. Much of the actual program was outlined then, but final details were left to a special committee. This committee spent hours in deciding upon and securing speakers, polishing up the agenda, and working for a successful meeting. Inas Dillard wrote over 500 letters concerning the conference. V. R. Dobson, a PFER from Lanett, secured beds for the 115 who stayed overnight. Many more people contributed much to the suc-

cess of the conference. Yes, it took a lot of work by many people, but it was worth every effort and more.

And now we look to the future. The Rev. Annie Campbell has agreed to become fulltime Minister of Christian Education for the Southeast Convention, which will help the growth of PF considerably. All of us who know Miss Campbell have come to love and appreciate her very much. All the PFers deeply appreciate her acceptance of the staff position. As the new PF year begins, an air of confidence prevails and we young people of the Southeast Convention eagerly await the coming year to experience a bigger and better Pilgrim Fellowship.

- Millard Fuller, President

Committee On Ministry

(From page 6)

in home study with suggestions and materials for work which will be helpful but will not apply on credits.

The program for a standard policy and practice for ordination, licensure and recognition has been going along fine. Copies of standard programs are available from the Convention office.

The Board of Directors of the convention has requested the committee to recommend at the annual meeting that hereafter all applicants for ministerial standing in any form will appear before the Convention Committee on the Ministry, which will report its findings to the association or conference committee where the standing is sought. The committee is requested to set definite dates on which these meetings will be held. The committee has also been requested to draw up a code of ethics for the calling of a pastor that would suit conditions in the Southeast Convention.

Another important matter the committee has undertaken during the past year is the writing of the "Statement of Policy by the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches" on the subject of racial integration. A meeting was held on Jan. 4th in Central Church to which ministers and laymen of the Southeast Convention were invited and asked to express their views on this subject. Then this committee, with the Convention Social Action Committee, compiled the written and spoken opinions of ministers and laymen of this area for the statement of policy which will be submitted to the delegates for vote during the annual meeting.

The committee wishes to report the receipt of \$500 from the Board of Home Missions toward the expenses of the Convocation and Training School, and wishes to express its gratitude to Southern Union College and all others who have helped in this program.

Our plans for the future are to continue to pursue the responsibilities of the committee as rapidly as time and resources permit.

—Dr. Thomas Anderson, chairman, and Dr. Jas. A. Fraser, Rev. Henry Abbott, Rev. Guy L. Colbert, and Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, and association and conference chairmen of similar committees.

Christian Education

(From page 6)

and help with young people's work in the churches this summer. Letters will be going out to churches right after the Convention Meeting regarding the SSS program, and if your church wishes workers this summer, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can make out the schedules.

In closing we would like to call your attention to the dates for our summer conferences and enlist your cooperation in making them a real success.

June 5-10: Ky.-Tenn. Family Conference at Pomona Camp. Dean, Rev. Arnold Slater.

July 10-15: Ala. Jr. Hi Conference at Southern Union College. Dean, Rev. Herbert Long.

July 24-29: Ala. Sr. Hi Conference at Southern Union College. Dean, Rev. Raymond Berry.

Aug. 21-26: Georgia Family Conference at Waycross. Dean, Rev. J. Scott Morris, Jr.

Rev. Annie R. Campbell, chairman, and Mrs. M. B. Porter, Rev. Herbert Long, Mrs. J. M. Gager, Jr., and Rev. Earl Hand with association and conference chairmen of the same committees.

Evang., Stewardship and Miss. Com.

(From page 7)

will visit many of our churches and counsel with them on building problems and will be available for those who have questions they wish to discuss. Dr. Scotford will conduct institutes at Deer Lodge, Tenn. on April 24; Pilgrim, Chattanooga, April 25; Oak Grove, Chipley, Ga., April 26; Lowell, Roanoke, April 27; First, Tifton, April 28; East Tallassee, April 29; and United, LaGrange, April 30.

Evangelism Institutes to be conducted by the Committee chairman and Convention staff are to be held in selected areas before the summer revivals. The tentative schedule is: Langdale on May 17; First, Roanoke on May 18; Mt. Olive, Tallassee on May 19; Antioch, Andalusia on May 24; Vanceville, Tifton on May 25; Center, Atlanta on May 26; Mountain Grove, Steppville on May 31; and Robbins Parish on June 1.

Your committee chairman attended the national committee meeting on Our Christian World Mission last June and will be attending the next session at Racine, Wis., June 6-10.

We seek the cooperation of all ministers and church officials in making our plans effective in the local church as we go forward in our "Program of Progress" for the Kingdom.

Rev. Joe A. French, chairman, and Mrs. Emmett Bailey, Rev. Carolyn Welch, Herman D. Cook, and Mrs. Arnold Slater. Association and conference chairmen of corresponding committees are also members of this committee.

Survey and Church Committee

(From page 7)

Congregational Christian Churches even though they may be in the same neighborhood.

5) Whenever possible, the first building ought to be a church building or a sanctuary that will compare favorably with those of the older church-

es. The sects fall back on the use of houses, store fronts, etc.

6) It must be understood that the organizing nucleus of a church in the south will always be small. Growth also is slower as people must learn who and what we are. Church extension projects need from the beginning support to carry them over the first few years that it takes to develop an adequate membership and financial base for church operation.

7) It must be recognized that there is a need for our type of church. In every community there are those who will be drawn to a free, liberal, democratic church which will provide a satisfying spiritual experience without the dogmatic, doctrinal approach. There are many cities and towns in the south that have no church to which a liberal, intelligent churchman can conscientiously give his allegiance.

8) We need some type of systematic statement of our theological position, so that we can express our purpose positively in new communities and old. We need slogans which can express quickly and simply our position, "We are a liberal church preaching fundamental Christianity", "Faith, Freedom and Fellowship", "In fundamentals unity, in opinions liberty, in all things love". We urge the more general use of "The Congregational Christian Churches of the South" which may now be obtained from the Convention office.

With these basic facts in mind, your committee has attempted to develop a program capable of meeting our basic needs. Financial limitations have seriously handicapped the work of our committee. A number of rural churches need only a financial push to take the "plunge" into fulltime work. Fears are many and ruts grow deep. First year support would be sufficient to turn these situations into "churches of promise". Other rural churches need to consolidate or link to provide an effective program. Again an "incentive fund" would be most helpful.

Certain missionary points continue to be a drain on our budget. But there is a need for these churches—there are people to be served and we would be untrue to our mission if we were to ignore their calls for help.

Probably the most serious financial handicap is in the field of church extension in cities and metropolitan areas. One-fourth of our total convention budget goes to support a minimum program in three projects. We are doing our best to keep these churches alive and give them at least some chance to grow; but even our "maximum aid" is far short of what our national committees consider "minimum budget" for new church projects. In an area where we are unknown; where "major denominations" are completely unrelated organizationally or theologically to northern bodies of the same name and will have nothing to do with "comity", which they view as a device of the devil; and where our peculiar problems make it extremely difficult to conform to national criteria, there is little hope of adequately financing our church extension projects save as we become self-sufficient. The Church Builders Club will be a big help to the local congregation just getting started, but we must prepare to sacrifice some phases of our pres-

A Vision Of the Living Church

In the House of Life, I saw an altar, with candles aglow and a Cross thereon.

And as I bowed in reverence and closed my eyes, I beheld the Living Church.

The walls were not of brick and stone, but of dedicated wills held together with the mortar of mutual dependence and common commitment to the Best yet revealed.

The windows were not of stained glass, but of multi-colored hopes, dreams, and aspirations, through which there came the vision of infinite beauty that shone with the broken brilliance of a thousand suns.

The towering pillars and the vaulted arches were not of stone and steel, but of far-reaching arms lifted in prayers innumerable and intermingling.

The long aisles were not carpeted with velvet runners, but with temptations trampled under foot and good resolutions kept.

The doors were never shut. They were wide open with welcome to all humanity: saints and sinners, rich and poor, black, brown, yellow, and white—whomsoever.

The altar was not of carved wood, but of penitent hearts, ashamed of their sins, made strong with the sense of forgiveness.

The pulpit was not a dais for the declaration of dogma, but a place of light and fire whence came forth flashes of truth and the impact of power.

The Holy Book was not a single volume held aloft on a lectern, but all life studied unashamedly, tested daringly, experienced deeply, comforted tenderly, challenged constantly.

The music was not compounded of organ and voices, but of consecrated leadership and well-developed diversities all harmonized into the matchless melody of creative cooperation.

And the warmth of the Living Church, wherein all glowed with radiant vitality, came not from furnace and fuel, but from obedience to Him who saith: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind and strength; and thy neighbor as thyself."

—Henry Hitt Crane.

Reprinted from *The Christian Sun*, which reprinted it from Shelton Memorial Church Bulletin.

ent Program of Progress to provide the necessary current expense budget aid for at least two new churches a year for the next five years.

But, in spite of our many frustrations, much good has been accomplished. The "life-line" of almost every church is now in the file. A new "report form" for aided churches is now in use, and regular visits are being made to aided fields. More and better churches are a must if we are to achieve full self-support and begin to fulfill our mission. The Survey and Church Aid Committee will earnestly seek to serve as we "March on With Strength . . . On to the New Day."

—A. Goff Bedford, Chairman, and Rev. W. C. Carpenter, Rev. Collie Seymour, Richard Drake and Walter Crutchfield.

CONVENTION HYMN

March On, O Soul, With Strength

George T. Coster - 1900

March on, O soul, with strength,
Like those strong men of old . . .
Who 'gainst enthroned wrong
Stood confident and bold;
Who, thrust in prison or cast to flame,
Still made their glory in thy name.

The sons of fathers we
By whom our faith is taught
To fear no ill, to fight . . .
The holy fight they fought;
Heroic warriors, ne'er from Christ
By any lure or guile enticed.

March on, O soul, with strength,
As strong the battle rolls;
'Gainst lies and lusts and wrongs, . . .
Let courage rule our souls;
In keenest strife, Lord, may we stand,
Upheld and strengthened by thy hand.

A-men.